

FME with Production Agents

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FME Roadshow 2026 • Christchurch Town Hall

19 August 2026

FME 
by Safe Software



A chatbot is not an agent

CHATGPT ALONE

A chatbot

- Answers questions
- Knows nothing about your data
- No memory of what it did
- One-shot, best-effort

Someone still has to do the actual work.

COUPLED WITH A HARNESS

An agent

- Does work
- Connects to your systems
- Leaves an audit trail
- Scheduled, repeatable, accountable

The harness turns a chat into a production system.

ChatGPT is the brain. **FME is the body.**

FME owns the deterministic layer

The model is the only part that guesses. Everything around it is ETL.



FORM

CONNECTING DATA

Still the best tool there is for it. Every format, every source, every transformation.



FLOW

PRODUCTION HOST

Always on. Streaming API. MCP server. The stable layer between the agent and your data.



BOUNDED

BY CONSTRUCTION

Every action stays inside the workspace unless you go out of your way to allow it.

MCP is the new standard for Agents

HTTPCaller

For when you know what you're asking for

- You know the endpoint
- You craft the URL
- You know what the response looks like
- You parse the result yourself

WIRED IN ADVANCE

MCPCaller

For when you don't

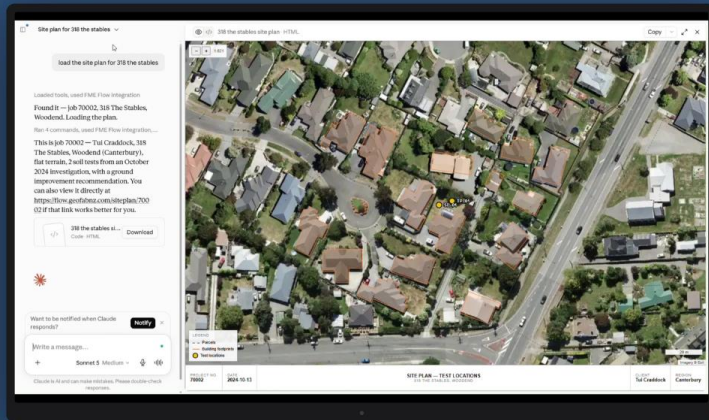
- When you don't know which tool
- The agent discovers
- You don't know what you'll get back
- The model interprets

CHOSEN AT RUNTIME

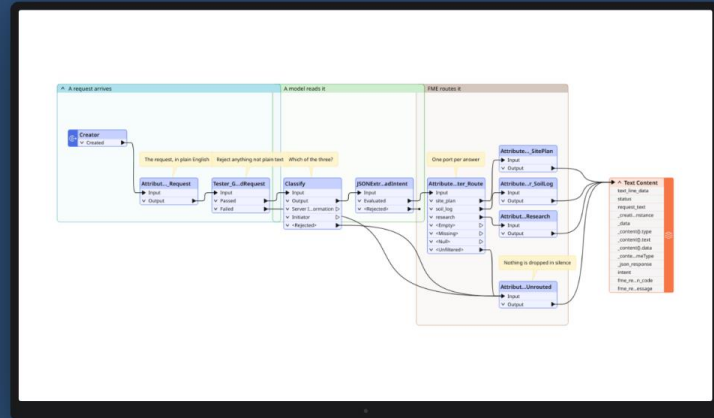
MCP lets the agent find the key. Someone still has to hand it over.

It goes both directions

1. AGENTS CALLING FME

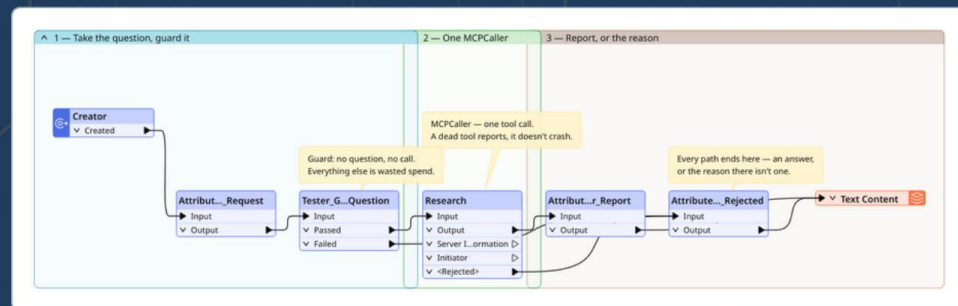
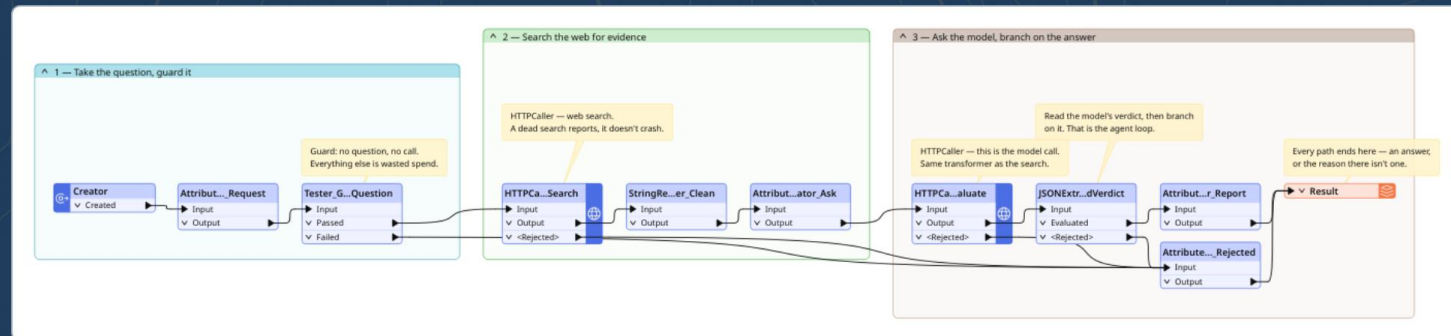


2. AI INSIDE FME



This isn't a new skill set

HTTPCaller: 10 transformers. Two HTTP calls, the JSON pulled apart by hand.



MCPCaller: 6 transformers. One tool call.

Same guard. Same reject path. Same writer. The middle band is the only thing that changed.

That is an agent loop.

How Flow becomes the server

A workspace is already a tool

- Defined inputs and outputs, so it is already callable
- Always on, always listening
- Every call logged. No direct database access. Flow is the gatekeeper.

THE TWO MCP SCENARIOS



FME Form

MCP CLIENT

Workspace



MCP



Tool server

FME calling out. Asking a specialist model.



FME Flow

MCP SERVER

Your agent



MCP



Flow workspace

Other tools calling in. Your data, your audit trail.

What did the agent do last Tuesday?

SCENARIO A: PYTHON SCRIPT

Let me get back to you...

- No job log
- No input / output capture
- When did it run?
- What did it change?

You get whatever logging you remembered to write.

SCENARIO B: FME FLOW AS THE TOOL LAYER

Here's the log.

- Job history with timestamps
- Full parameter log
- Input and output captured
- Alert on failure
- Replay any job

This isn't a new FME feature. Flow already does this.

Something we can actually use

WHAT A USER ASKS

What investigations have we done **near this location?**

How many jobs were completed **in August?**

What does the **terrain** look like at this site?

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS



The user gets a plain English answer. **The job log in Flow shows exactly what ran.**

One question in. This much back.

Soil log, ground conditions and field session for job 70001 — the whole package, from one plain English question.

The agent chose which tools to call, and in what order. Every one of them was an FME workspace that already existed.

The image displays three overlapping screenshots of the STRATUM software interface, which is used for recording field sessions and generating soil logs. The interface is organized into sections: Ground Conditions, Soil Logs, and Field Session. The top screenshot shows the 'Field Session - 105 Cathedral Road, Domett' with client information and operator details. The middle screenshot shows the 'Soil Log - 105 Cathedral Road, Domett' with a table of test results. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Soil Log - 105 Cathedral Road, Domett' with a table of test results and an assessment section.

Field Session - 105 Cathedral Road, Domett
Client: Cobden Point Partnership Operator: j.harkness@scimac.example Date: 2023-06-20 Weather: light drizzle

Soil Log - 105 Cathedral Road, Domett
Client: Cobden Point Partnership Operator: j.harkness@scimac.example Date: 2023-06-20 Weather: light drizzle

Test pit	Depth	Terminated: refusal	Groundwater: not encountered
TP_01	1759 mm		
Pit backfilled and compacted on completion.			
TP_02	1052 mm		
Hand excavation to 300 mm to clear services.			
TP_03	1674 mm		
No seepage observed during excavation.			

Stratigraphy

Test	Depth	Soil
TP_01	0-168 mm	TOPSOIL
TP_01	168-924 mm	silty SAND
TP_01	924-1759 mm	sandy GR
TP_02	0-296 mm	TOPSOIL
TP_02	296-1052 mm	sandy GR
TP_03	0-251 mm	TOPSOIL
TP_03	251-996 mm	silty SAND
TP_03	996-1674 mm	sandy GR

Assessment

Governing near-surface consistency capacity reduction factor of 0.5 given

Recommendation: shallow foundations

Prepared by Priya Sandford, BSc (SYNTHETIC).

Whose API key is in there?

Free APIs often run on personal keys. Organisations procure the paid ones, and nobody sets up a company account for something that costs nothing. On the desktop that's fine. Publish that workspace as a tool and **the credential hasn't moved, but the number of people who can press the button has.**

Quota

Agents fan out and retry. Yours throttles, and your own desktop work stops with it.

Attribution

The provider sees your key. Every call the agent makes is logged against your name.

User dependency

You rotate it, or you leave. The tool dies quietly.

FLOW SHIPS CONTROLS FOR ALL THREE

Gate the server

`authenticationType: oauth2`

Name who may call it

`allowedUsers / allowedRoles`

Keep the key out of the tool

`showInTool: false`

Flow decides who can call the tool. **Only you know whose key is inside it.**

Questions

MCP · AI agents · FME Flow integration



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